

## Message Text

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12

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY A/SY/FO:GPVARROS:HB  
APPROVED BY A/SY/FO - VERNE F. ST. MARS  
ARA/CAR - JWSIMMS  
ARA/MGT - KDACKERMAN  
A/SY - KWKNAUF  
S/S - WHLUERS

----- 071450

R 072301Z MAY 74  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 094387

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN ARMORING GODR  
PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE  
FOR RSO  
REF: SANTO DOMINGO 1756 AND PREVIOUS

1. TWO SEABEE TECHNICIANS PLAN TO LEAVE WASHINGTON  
SHORTLY TO PERFORM VITAL AND LONG OVERDUE ARMORING  
AND OTHER WORK ON SPECIAL SECURITY VEHICLES IN GUAYAQUIL  
AND SANTIAGO. WHEN THIS ASSIGNMENT IS COMPLETED THEY  
WILL PROCEED FROM SANTIAGO TO SANTO DOMINGO TO INSTALL  
THE ARMOR PLATE IN PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE.

2. SINCE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME TO PROVIDE A  
DEFINITE DATE FOR THEIR ARRIVAL IN SANTO DOMINGO, THEY  
WILL BE INSTRUCTED TO INFORM THE POST ACCORDINGLY FROM  
SANTIAGO.

3. IT SHOULD BE UNDERSTOOD THAT THESE TECHNICIANS CAN  
NOT BE DIVERTED FROM THEIR PRESENT SCHEDULE AND THEY  
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ARE EXPECTED TO INSTALL ARMOR PLATING ONLY IN ONE

VEHICLE FOR THE GODR. NO OTHER WORK WILL BE PERFORMED ON GODR VEHICLES.

4. MANY HOURS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN EXPENDED IN

WASHINGTON ADVISING AND INSTRUCTING GODR OFFICIALS ON PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF BALLISTIC ALUMINUM FOR PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLES WHEN THE APPROACH WAS MADE IN MID-1973. THE DEPARTMENT REGRETS THAT LIMITED TECHNICAL MANPOWER AND THE GREAT AMOUNT OF ARMORING WORK PLANNED FOR ITS OWN PROGRAM WILL PRECLUDE ANY FUTURE INSTALLATION WORK FOR THE GODR.

5. DUE TO THE VERY LIMITED NATURE OF PROTECTION AFFORDED BY THE ARMOR TO BE INSTALLED IN THIS CASE, THE DEPARTMENT STRONGLY URGES THE EMBASSY TO INFORM THE GODR PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE THAT BALLASTICS ALUMINUM WILL ONLY PROTECT AGAINST 9MM OR SMALLER CALIBRE BULLETS. WITH ONLY THE LOWER PART OF THE DOORS AND REAR OF THE SEATS ARMORED, THE VEHICLE CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS NO MORE THAN A "MOBILE FOXHOLE" WITHOUT PROTECTION UNDERNEATH. IT PROVIDES RELATIVELY NO DEFENSE AGAINST BOMBS OR GRENADES BECAUSE OF FLYING GLASS AND OTHER OBJECTS. THIS IS HARDLY RECOMMENDED FOR PROTECTING A CHIEF OF STATE OR LEADER. IF THE PRESIDENTIAL OFFICE IS INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A FULLY ARMORED VEHICLE, THE DEPARTMENT IS WILLING TO PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH A LIST OF THE BEST RECOGNIZED FIRMS IN THE U.S. WHO ARE ENGAGED IN BUILDING ARMORED CARS FOR CHIEFS OF STATE. RUSH

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